



# Blair-Taylor School District



## Athletic Code Middle/High School

### Introduction:

This Athletic Code has been prepared for the benefit of the athletes, parents/guardians and coaches in an effort to make athletics a contributing and worthwhile part of the athlete’s overall education. It is hoped that a genuine understanding of the school’s interscholastic athletic program and the training rules will be realized by reading and discussing this code. This code has been prepared using the guidelines established by the WIAA and the current policies being used by the Board of Education at the Blair-Taylor Schools. This athletic code is enforced throughout **the entire year** (12 months) and covers all sports and participants in any Athletic Sport offered here at Blair-Taylor. **This code goes into effect for an athlete the day he or she starts fall sports practices or the first scheduled day of their classes, whichever comes first, and continues until all spring sports seasons of the athlete’s senior year have been completed, i.e., an athlete’s high school tenure.**

### Athletics

#### Fall

- MS/HS Cross Country
- HS Cheerleading
- HS Dance
- MS/HS Football
- MS/ HS Volleyball

#### Winter

- MS/HS Boys Basketball
- HS Cheerleading
- MS/HS Girls Basketball
- HS Dance
- MS/HS Wrestling
- Swimming
- Hockey

#### Spring

- HS Baseball
- HS Golf
- HS Softball
- MS/HS Track & Field
- Trap

### Athletic Philosophy

Athletics at the Blair-Taylor Schools provide an opportunity for students to develop physically and mentally. All students at Blair-Taylor Middle/High School have the privilege of choosing to participate in an athletic program. Those who choose to participate have much to gain if they are willing to accept certain responsibilities.

This athletic code clearly states the athlete’s responsibilities, thereby, making it possible for all participants to compete in full knowledge of what is expected of them. The code promotes good citizenship, sportsmanship, physical strength, self-discipline and leisure time skills for lifelong activities. *Cooperation, competitiveness, school pride and self-confidence* are all positive outcomes of our athletic programs when students abide by the athletic code.

Athletes who do not follow the rules governing participation in our athletic programs will be denied participation time for their violations as indicated below.

### Section 1: Violations

Article One:

- *The consumption, possession or distribution of alcohol or any malt beverage.*

Article Two:

- *Using or being in possession of illegal drugs or paraphernalia of any kind, including steroids, or prescription drugs that were not prescribed for the student in question. This includes any items identified on the W.I.A.A. banned substance list.*

Article Three:

- *Using or being in possession of any tobacco product or by-product, including but not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, vape pens (even if not nicotine).*

Article Four:

- *For any other immoral or unacceptable conduct (Conduct Unbecoming) contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of the school and the W.I.A.A. This includes but is not limited to: any student charged and/or convicted of a misdemeanor felony, any student that steals or vandalizes any property of the Blair-Taylor School District or any other school, behavior or language which displays or promotes poor sportsmanship, using social media to reference alcohol, drugs, tobacco, criminal acts and/or immoral actions towards others or themselves.*

Article Five:

- *Any violations of this code by middle school students will not carry over into their high school careers. They will start with a “clean slate” as a 9th grade student.*

## **Section 2: Suspension**

If it has been determined that an athlete has broken one of the (54) articles, they must serve a suspension for that conduct. An athlete must practice with their team to complete their suspension. If there are not enough sporting events left in the season to complete the suspension, the suspension will be carried over into the athlete's next sport. The suspension will go into effect immediately after the athlete has been notified of the infraction/suspension. *For any of these violations, it is important to remember that the entire WIAA tournament series is considered one game/event.*

First Offense:

- For an athlete's first violation, they will be suspended from participation for 33% of the scheduled events for the season they are participating in, or in the next season in which they plan to participate.

*“Honesty Clause”* - If an athlete admits the violation to their coach, the athletic director or principal prior to being spoken to by their coach, athletic director or principal, the suspension will be reduced. *This may be applied to the athlete's first violation only.* The suspension for the “Honesty Clause” will be 15% of the total scheduled season.

Second Offense:

- For an athlete's second violation, they will be suspended from participation for 50% of the scheduled events for the season they are participating in, or in the next season in which they plan to participate.

Third Offense:

- For an athlete's third violation, they will be suspended from all athletic participation for one calendar year from the date of the infraction.

Fourth Offense:

- For an athlete's fourth violation, they will be suspended from any sports participation for the rest of their high school career.

### **Section 3: Reporting Violations**

1. A person witnessing a violation of the athletic code shall be encouraged to present in writing to the A.D. or Principal, within two weeks of the alleged violation, the time, place and act of violation. Anonymous letters will not be considered. However, newspaper accounts or reports from police or social service agencies which implicate a student athlete as having violated the code call be considered as a valid report at any time and shall cause the investigatory process to be initiated.
2. Anyone over the age of 18 can report a violation. Anyone under the age of 18 or a current student may report a violation, but they must have a parent signature on the violation AND the guardian or parent must be present during a meeting with school personnel.
3. The report will be presented to the accused. If the accused admits guilt, suspension according to the Athletic Code will be put into effect at that time.
4. If the accused denies the charge or disagrees with the suspension, the athlete along with their parent or guardian will be granted an *Appeal Hearing* before the Athletic Council.

**Appeal Method:** The accused athlete or parent/guardian can ask for an appeal of the suspension to the athletic director or principal. The request must be made within two (2) school days of the initially stated infraction to the accused. The Athletic Council will meet within two (2) school days after the accused requests an appeal. The athlete is *not* suspended until after the Athletic Council states its findings from the appeal.

**Athletic Council:** The council is composed of the athletic director or high school principal, one female athletic coach, one male athletic coach, one teacher, and one school board member. The athletic director or principal will state to the council the conduct of the athlete and the recommended suspension. The suspended athlete along with their parent/guardian may state their appeal to the Athletic Council. Deliberation will take place with a *closed-door session* with only the Athletic Council being present. A vote will be taken of the five (5) Athletic Council members. A majority vote is needed to enforce the option selected by the Athletic Council.

**Options:** 1) *Uphold the suspension*; 2) *Throw-out the suspension*; or 3) *Devise an alternate suspension/consequence*.

Following the hearing, the findings of the Athletic Council will then be read aloud by the athletic director to the athlete and family involved in the appeal. The ruling by the Athletic Council will then go into effect **immediately**.

4. If the athlete and parent/guardian are not satisfied with the Athletic Council's findings and ruling, they may appeal to the school board. This appeal must be requested within two (2) days of the Athletic Council's findings and be directed to the athletic director and/or principal. This meeting will take place within one week of the request. The decision of the Athletic Council is in effect until the appeal to the School Board is complete.

### **Section 4: Scholastic Eligibility**

Grades will be checked at the end of each trimester for eligibility for the current sport season or the next to start. To encourage incoming freshmen to become involved and participate in athletics, 8th grade students who fail a class during the third trimester of their 8th grade year will be allowed to start fall sports but will have a grade check after

15 scheduled school days. If the student is passing all their classes on day 15, they will not incur a penalty. If the student is failing, they will not be allowed to compete in events until they are passing all their classes.

1. **End of each trimester:** If the student athlete has failed one (1) academic class, they are ineligible for 10% of the total scheduled season dates. If the student has failed two (2) or more academic classes, they will be ineligible for 15 school days from the point of the release of the grades, which is in accordance with WIAA rule regarding multiple failing/incomplete grades if the student is in high school.
1. **In accordance with WIAA Section 2.A.3,** a student may remove ineligibility status related to the last grade reporting period of the school year (3rd trimester) through successful summer school course work completion. If the student intends to do this, it is their responsibility to contact the teacher of the failing class before the end of the school year and indicate their interest in completing the work needed to receive a passing grade.
2. If a student receives an **incomplete** grade, they are eligible, but must complete the course work within two weeks or the grade is considered *failing* at that point.
3. A student who is enrolled in a class where Pass/Fail is the grading procedure, is eligible if they are making *satisfactory* progress in that class or program.
4. A student with an IEP needs to be passing all classes when the IEP approved *modifications* of the class are used to be eligible to compete.

## **Section 5: Athlete's Responsibilities**

### **1. Attendance:**

A student must attend all class periods in person for the day to participate in an athletic event or practice on that day. A student absent from class because of illness for any portion of that day may not participate in an athletic event or practice that day. If a student has any unexcused absences, they may not participate in an athletic event or practice on that date. A student who is sent to the office for disciplinary reasons will be considered unexcused and will not be allowed to participate in an athletic event or practice that day.

**Pre-Arranged/Excused Absences:** Students can participate with an excused absence approved by the principal or athletic director

### **2. Transportation:**

Blair-Taylor Schools will provide transportation to and from all contests. All athletes are to travel with their team and coaches to events unless the Principal or Athletic Director has granted permission in advance due to extenuating circumstances. Athletes are expected to return with their team, as well. If an athlete is going to ride home with a parent/guardian, the parent/guardian must sign out the athlete on the coach's sign out form following the sporting event assuming responsibility for their student athlete. If the parent/guardian gives permission for his/her athlete to return home with another adult, a note from the parent/guardian must be pre-approved by the office, and the coach will be informed. **Failure to adhere to these rules will result in a suspension of the athlete's next athletic game or event.**

### **3. Team Rules:**

A student will follow rules that have been established by the coach of their sport. These rules may address appearance, haircuts, dress, attendance to practices, curfew, etc. If the student does not follow the rules, they can be suspended from the entire next athletic event or parts of it and suspension can be extended until the rules are adhered to.

**4. Equipment/Uniforms:**

It is the student's responsibility to take care of and maintain all equipment issued to them by the coach or school. Financial charges will be levied to the student/parent/guardian to replace lost or damaged items. The student will not be allowed to participate in their next sport season until *all* items are returned in proper condition or fines are paid in full.

**8. Dual Sports:**

A high school student may participate in more than one sport per season if the following **criteria are met**.

- There will be a face-to-face meeting with the student and both head coaches involved in the dual sports before the season begins.
- The student must choose which sport will be their primary sport.
  - Any student will be able to change their primary sport within *two weeks* of the start of that season, but they can only change it once for each sport season.
  - Students will be expected to participate in the primary sport when a conflict arises. Coaches will oversee the implementation of this rule.
- The student is under the Athletic Code for their second sport as well, but they will be penalized under the primary sport for the length of the suspension.